

ASSOCIATION NAME CHANGE ??

VOTE NOW !!

(IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO VOTE)

A little over a week ago you should have received a letter on possibly changing the name of your 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association. The letter was accompanied by a post card ballot requested that you vote on:

Keep your association name - 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association

Change your association name to - Fightin' 55th Association

Change your association name to - 55th Wing Association

We have followed up by emailing those members who have not yet voted and the response has been good, yet we want everyone to vote on this extremely important matter.

Please read the letter below and give careful consideration to your vote. Then please vote.

If you have already voted, THANK YOU. If you have not voted please mail your signed ballot immediately or email me, Michael.Cook@cox.net, with your vote. For Example:

“Michael,

I vote to:

Keep the current association name - 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association

Or

Change your association name to - Fightin' 55th Association

Or

Change your association name to - 55th Wing Association”

Your Full Name

YOUR EMAIL TO ME MUST HAVE YOUR FULL NAME TO BE COUNTED

Every vote will be counted but we can't count you unless you vote. Email polls will remain open until 2400 Friday, 19 Mar 10. Mailed ballots must be postmarked by 19 Mar 2010.

Dear Association Member:

The purpose of this letter is to ask your help on an important decision in the development of our Association.

In 1985 the 55th ELINT Association, the founding organization of what we are today, changed its name to the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing Association in order to be more inclusive in its membership to those who served and supported that storied Air Force unit during the Cold War.

Just one year later, Strategic Air Command (SAC) designated the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (SRW) as host unit at Offutt Air Force Base, NE. Thus, in addition to its long established operational and maintenance missions, the 55SRW became responsible for groups providing communications, mission support, logistics, medical services, and the myriad duties required to operate the entire base; plus the support of some-80 tenant units including Headquarters SAC and the AF Weather Agency HQ.

Then in September 1991, the unit's name was changed to the generic 55th Wing to reflect its evolution and its diverse and varied missions. That was nearly 19 years ago, half a generation. (SAC stood down on 1 June 1992 and the 55th Wing became part of Air Combat Command.)

So, too, has the Association evolved and matured in its management of activities, contributions, rapport and close relationship with the active duty unit over those years.

A discussion was held during the Association membership meeting at the reunion in Reno last September to consider changing the name of this honorable organization. That possibility was reiterated in the membership meeting minutes, and the president's message, which were published in the November 2009 Association newsletter.

After extensive discussion and intense deliberation, a majority of the 21 member Board of Directors (BoD) recommends that the name of the Association be changed, with this rationale:

It is essential, even imperative, that for this organization to remain a relevant entity, it needs to appeal to every generation of the 55th, past, present and future. The valiant men and women who have served, and are serving, under its banner need to be able to identify with, feel welcomed to, and embraced by the entire Association membership.

Recruiting new members from the past two decades, to include the current active duty troops, and in the future, could be enhanced with this symbolic gesture. This Association is fortunate to have an existing and viable unit from which to draw new members. Many former SAC, AF, and other military unit affiliated organizations do not.

As guardians of the heritage and legacy of the 55th, it is time to recognize that these changes and today's attitudes are real. Thus, it is necessary to adapt and surviveor the Association could eventually cease to exist.

Therefore, the BoD puts forth to its entire membership the opportunity to endorse or reject its recommendation to change the organization's name.

Enclosed you will find a prepaid, addressed postcard ballot on which to cast your vote on whether to change the name, or to select one of the options that were deemed by a majority of the BoD to be the most applicable from a number of suggestions.

Respectfully request that you carefully consider this extremely important issue, then please vote. Mark the ballot and mail it. All ballots must be postmarked prior to, but not later than 5 March.

The BoD truly appreciates your participation in this significant decision. Thank you.

Videmus Omnia